

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 A-01 PER-05 PM-07 MMS-03

SS-20 ABF-01 DRC-01 /088 W
----- 055032

R 041140Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4835

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKMD

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

COMUSSAG NKP TH

COMUSMACTHAI BKK TH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE (U)

1. FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TACTICAL AIR IMPROVEMENT PLAN, MEDTC HAS RECEIVED FIVE USAF AUGMENTED PERSONNEL, INCLUDING ONE COLONEL

(O-6). IN ADDITION TO THESE FIVE PERSONNEL, COLONEL HAYDEN C. CURRY, USAF, HAS ARRIVED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS TEMPORARY DUTY AND HAS ASSUMED DUTY AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR AIR TO CHMEDTC. HE WILL RETAIN THIS POSITION UNTIL DEPARTURE OF DEPUTY

CHIEF MEDTC WHEN HE WILL ASSUME THE DEPUTEDCHIEF DUTIES UNTIL THE DESIGNEE ARRIVES IN JUL 74.

2. THESE ADDITIONAL SIX USWG PERSONNEL HAVE INCREASED OUR VISIBILITY WITH THIS NEW FUNCTION. FURTHER, COL CURRY IS SUBJECT TO EARLY RECOGNITION BY ANY REPORTERS WITH EXPERIENCE IN LAOS SINCE
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HE RECENTLY COMPLETED A TOUR IN VIENTIANE AS AIR ATTACHE.

3. THIS SUDDEN INFLUX OF USAF PERSONNEL IN SUCH A SMALL MISSION

COULD LEAD TO MUCH SPECULATION BY THE PRESS CORPS IF DETECTED.
WE RECOMMEND THAT WE TAKE THE FOLLOWING POSITION IF QUERIES ARE
RECEIVED.

A. REALIGNMENT OF POSITIONS IS A NORMAL OCCURRENCE WITHIN MEDTC,
AS ONLY 73 SPACES ARE AUTHORIZED. THUS, AS THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM PROGRESSES, POSITIONS ARE DELETED AND OTHERS ADDED TO THE
MANNING DOCUMENT. SINCE MANNING DOCUMENTS ARE NORMALLY CHANGED
ANNUALLY, AND THE PERMANENT REPLACEMENT PROCESS IS TIME CONSUM-
ING, IT HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN NECESSARY TO BRING PERSONNEL IN ON A
TEMPORARY BASIS TO DO A JOB, UNTIL THE POSITIONS IS APPROVED ON
A PERMANENT BASIS AND REPLACEMENTS ARE RECEIVED. THIS HAS BEEN
DONE IN SEVERAL CASES IN THE PAST.

B. WITH A LARGE
U.S. INVESTMENT IN THE KHMER AIR FORCE, AND
ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF USAF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MEDTC, A
REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WAS IDENTIFIED. THE AIR
FORCE PROVIDED THE PERSONNEL ON A TEMPORARY DUTY BASIS TO FORM
THE INSPECTION AND ANALYSIS DIVISION OF MEDTC. THESE PERSONNEL
WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR END ITEM USE INSPECTIONS, ANALYZING
PERFORMANCE AND IDENTIFYING AREAS REQUIRING TRAINING. THEY WILL
ALSO COORDINATE OUT OF COUNTRY DEPOT MAINTENANCE CONDUCTED UNDER
THE MAP, AND U.S. SPONSORED TRAINING. SINCE ALL MAP TRAINING IS
CONDUCTED OUT OF COUNTRY, THEY SERVE AS A LIAISON WITH TRAINING
FUNCTIONS.

4. THE CASE OF COL CURRY IS THE MOST PROBABLE TO BE SURFACED. A
STRAIGHT FORWARD RESPONSE TO ANY INQUIRY IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE
BEST APPROACH. HE IS HERE AS TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT FOR DEPCHEMEDTC
UNTIL THE DESIGNEE COMPLETES FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL AND REPORTS
IN COUNTRY. FOR CONTINUITY WITHIN THE MEDTC COMMAND SECTION,
THE CURRENT DEPUTY, WHO HAS BEEN HERE ALMOST TWO YEARS,
WILL REMAIN UNTIL GEN PALMER, WHO ASSUMES DUTIES AS CHMEDTC IN
MID-FEBRUARY, IS FULLY ORIENTED.

5. WE PREFER NO PUBLICITY, BUT MUST BE PREPARED. UNOD WILL
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TAKE ABOVE APPROACH IF QUERIED. SUGGEST ALL QUESTIONS ON THIS
SUBJECT
BE HANDLED BY FULLY BRIEFED DOD PAO'S OR PREFERABLY BE REFERRED
TO AMEMB PHNOM PENH AND CHMEDTC FOR RESPONSE. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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